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Constitutional Election of President.

LEWISBERRY, YORK Co, Pa, }
January 20, 1877. }

The Constitution gives the people of the States, by States, the first opportunity to elect the President, on the representative base of the National Congress, but using electors and not the representatives in the two houses; this confirms another fundamental principle embodied in it, which is to make the Executive as far as possible independent of Congress. Now if Congress can legally judge the electoral count of States, then a party having a majority in both Houses may at their pleasure subvert not only the right of the States, but also these two republican foundations of the Executive. And we may have *party tyranny* setting up, and with their power to impeach, tumbling down Presidents at its pleasure. Both Houses having their separate opportunity to make the President after the people, by States, failing to fill or keep that important office filled, must foreclose and exclude them from being the judges of the election by States, else State rights and the republican rights of the people are a nullity. Therefore sending committees, to hold an authoritative supervision of the work of State canvassers by either House, is absurd. Partisans in office have no right to do more than the best of our partisans have done already. The right and interests of law-abiding States should not be put in jeopardy by States not qualified to exercise the rights of republican liberty. Congress has unwisely trusted certain States with the republican franchise. Let Congress send a committee to investigate the law-abiding character of States reported to be in a state of anarchy. It is their prerogative to provide for the establishing and continuance of law-abiding republicanism in the States. And if an investigation of the general civil character during the year preceding the late election for President would warrant them in doing so, declare, by a joint ballot resolution, those States under martial law, and establish a moderate but firm and wise military govern-

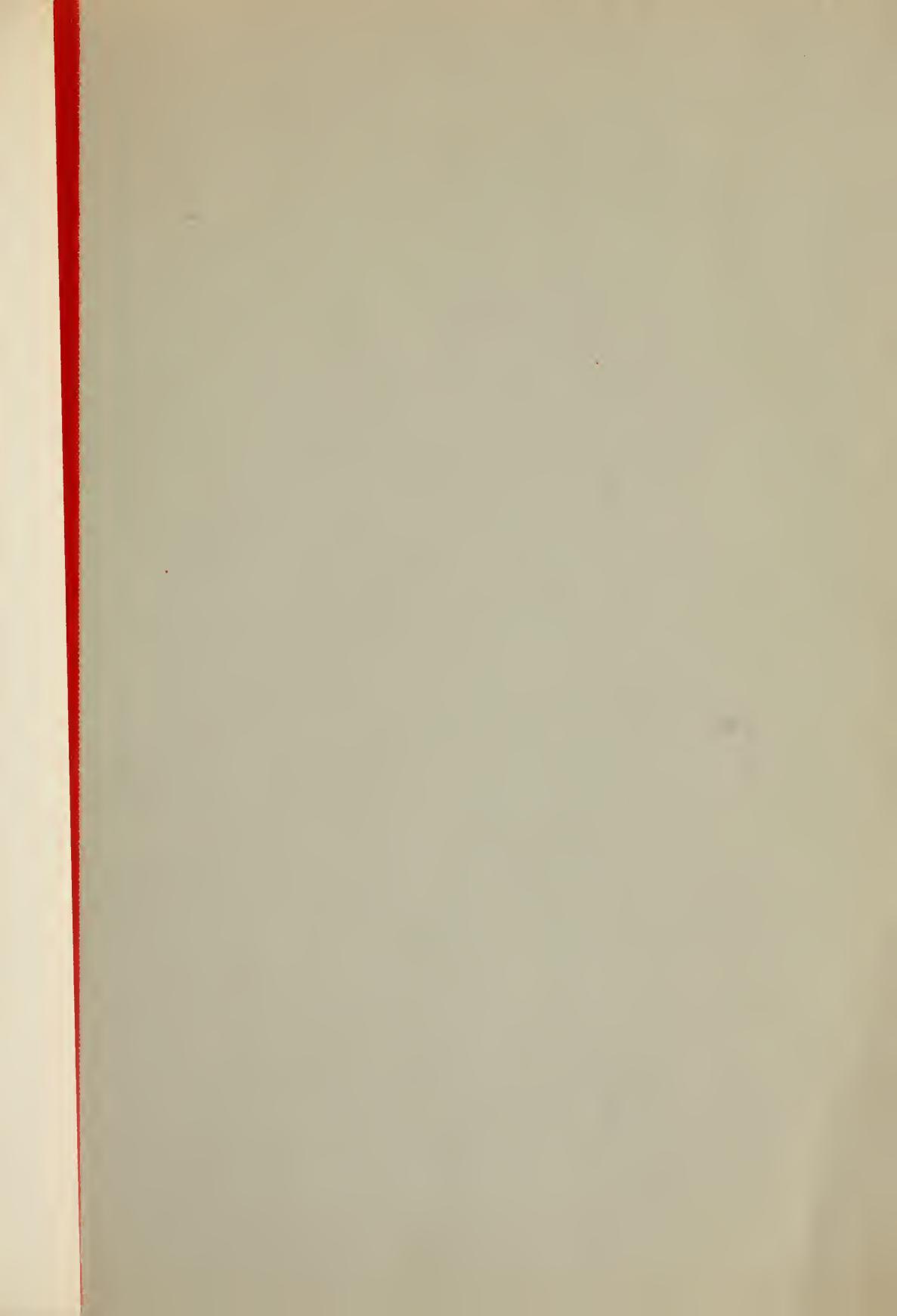
ment over them. Invite and protect a free emigration of good citizens from Europe and the Northern States, and establish schools, manufactories, etc. The avowed object being to school them up to a condition that will make them a blessing and not a curse to our National Union. If this is too radical let it be modified. If partisanship continues to govern Congress, taking the place of patriotism, is it not possible for the best citizens of all parties to call into existence a new party and let it be named and made the party of honor, of order, of law, of progress? If we are to have public demonstrations, this is the party to make them; substituting patriotism for partisanship.

Partisans must be taught the lesson that there is an ocean of patriotism gravitated in the American people, deeper and broader than partisanship, which if roused to indignation, will wreck their little boats in deserved oblivion.

But we are compelled to chose one of the two existing parties, and seeking the *ideal party* of honor, how can we join the party resorting to such low trickery as the Oregon manipulation, is a conspicuous example; seeking order how can we consort with the worst characters in our large cities, or bull-dozers of the South; being law-abiding and tolerant in our disposition how can we give countenance to the general disposition to intimidate, that has been and is a leading style with Democratic leaders, or favoring progress as the first law of nature, how can we support party leaders seedy in principles devoid of true principle? If republicans hold their present position tenaciously, though quietly and firmly, is not the argument of this article or any true argument all on the side of their doing so. To be decided for the law and the right is not partisan but patriotic. Intimidation and intimidators must meet a crushing defeat if our republican experiment is to be a continued success. Let us be prepared with wisdom, with courage and other material, if it is required, to squarely face the emergency that is upon us.

G. EPPLEY.
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